

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR MZ US UK

SUBJ: AUGUST 31 BRITISH MEETING WITH MACHEL

1. SUMMARY: MACHEL TOLD ROWLANDS/DUFF THAT HE WILL SUPPORT US-UK INITIATIVE TO REACH PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA IF THERE IS A "FORCE" IN RHODESIA READY TO NEGOTIATE. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR JOHN LEWEN HAS GIVEN ME THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE MEETING AUGUST 31 BETWEEN MACHEL AND TED ROWLANDS AND TONY DUFF. AMBASSADOR LEWEN WAS PRESENT. MEETING LASTED TWO-AND-HALF HOURS. SAME MOZAMBICANS WERE PRESENT AS AT SCHAUFLE MEETING WITH MACHEL.

3. FIRST HOUR WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO ROWLANDS' EXPLANATION OF UK POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND DISCUSSION WHAT UK AND US NOW SEEKING TO ACCOMPLISH. ROWLANDS STRESSED THAT THERE WAS OPPORTUNITY NOW FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND AFRICAN FRONT-LINE LEADERS SHOULD GRASP IT. HE NOTED THAT THE IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT IN PICTURE WAS USG WILLINGNESS TO BRING PRESSURE ON VORSTER, WHO IN TURN WOULD BE URGED TO APPLY PRESSURE ON SMITH.

4. DURING COURSE ROWLANDS' PRESENTATION, MACHEL REMARKED THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN RHODEISA DEPENDED MORE ON WEST AND UK THAN ON AFRICANS. HE SAID AFRICANS HAD SOUGHT FOR ONE YEAR TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT, BUT SMITH REFUSED. MACHEL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT

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VORSTER HAD DONE TWO THINGS: HE HAD HELPED FREE PRISONERS

AND HE HAD WITHDRAWN HIS TROOPS FROM RHODESIA. MACHZL SAID IT VITAL THAT VORSTER NOT INTERVENE IN THE WAR. IF HE DID, RHODESIA WOULD BECOME ANOTHER ANGOLA, BY WHICH BRITISH AMBASSADOR TOOK MACHEL TO MEAN THAT THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN RHODESIAN WAR.

5. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID DISCUSSION DURING FIRST HOUR WAS RAMBLING AND IMPRECISE, BUT THIS CHANGED WHEN MACHEL ASKED ROWLANDS QUIZZICALLY "WHY ARE WE MEETING?" ROWLANDS SAID PURPOSE WAS TO EXPLAIN UK POSITION ON RHODESIA, TO CONVEY UK THINKING THAT "MOMENT IS AT HAND" TO EXERT DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE TOWARD SETTLEMENT, TO REPORT THAT US AND UK ARE PREPARED MOUNT SUCH INITIATIVE, AND TO FIND OUT IF MACHEL WOULD SUPPORT SUCH INITIATIVE.

6. READING FROM HIS NOTES, LEWEN SAID MACHEL'S RESPONSE TO ROWLANDS' QUESTION WAS "YES, WE WILL SUPPORT IT IF THERE IS A FORCE READY TO NEGOTIATE." LEWEN SAID MACHEL WAS TALKING ABOUT A "POLITICAL FORCE." MACHEL WAS SKEPTICAL THAT SUCH A FORCE EXISTS. IF IT DOES, HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO GOVERN AS WELL AS NEGOTIATE. (COMMENT: IN DISCUSSION WITH SCHAUFELE, MACHEL ALSO CAME BACK SEVERAL TIMES TO QUESTION OF "WITH WHO SHALL WE NEGOTIATE?" IT OBVIOUSLY ONE OF MACHEL'S MAJOR CONCERNS.)

7. AS IN HIS MEETING WITH SCHAUFELE, MACHEL ALSO EMPHASIZED TO BRITISH THAT THE TRANSITION PERIOD MUST BE SHORT. EIGHTEEN MONTHS WAS FAR TOO LONG. MACHEL SAID IT SHOULD BE MAXIMUM OF TWO MONTHS. MACHEL ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING ORDER IN RHODESIA DURING TRANSITION. SMITH, HE NOTED, HAS AN ARMY, POLICE AND MERCENARIES, AND THE WHITES ARE ARMED. "WHO IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING ORDER?"

8. ONE ISSUE WHICH MACHEL EXPLORED WITH BRITISH BUT NOT WITH SCMAUFELE WAS ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHITES. MACHEL SAID HE WAS CONCERNED BY ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE GUARANTEES FOR MINORITIES DURING THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS. HE SAID PORTUGAL HAD IMPOSED GUARANTEES IN ANGOLA AND "LOOK WHAT HAPPENED." "THERE MUST BE NO GUARANTEES FOR COLONIALISTS." DUFF RESPONDED
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TO THIS BY EXPLAINING IN MORE DETAIL BRITISH THINKING ON POSSIBLE MAKE-UP OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, ON THE VARIOUS STEPS IN TRANSITION PROCESS, AND ON HOW WHITES MIGHT BE DEALT WITH. ACCORDING LEWEN, DUFF'S PRESENTATION WENT LONG WAY TO ALLAYING MACHEL'S FEARS THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHITES WAS WAY OF ENTRENCHING "COLONIAL PRIVILEGE."

9 MACHEL SUMMARIZED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF OBJECTIVES OF US-UK INITIATIVES ON RHODESIA AS FOLLOWS: (A) TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT; (B) TO BRING INTO BEING AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT; (C) TO ESTABLISH MAJORITY RULE; (D) TO NEGOTIATE WITH NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS, INCLUDING FREEDOM FIGHTERS; AND (E) TO AVOID FURTHER WAR.

10.M DIYCUSSION ON NAMIBIA WAS BRIEF, WITH MACHEL MAKING MUCH SAME POINTS AS HE DID WITH SCHAUFLELE. MACHEL DID ADMIT TO BRITISH THAT WHILE SWAPO IS THE MAJOR FORCE IN NAMIBIA, THERE ARE OTHER FORCES AS WELL.
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